

TRAFFIC FACTS

HOT SHEET – DECEMBER 15, 2008

There was one traffic fatality early this morning, the first since November 21st. Speed is listed as the primary contributing circumstance, as the driver lost control while attempting to flee from police. This brings the number of traffic crash fatalities to 115, compared to 118 at this same time last year. The good news is that alcohol-related fatalities remain down significantly, by 10 percentage points, and speed-related fatal crashes remain down as well, by 6 percentage points. Further good news is that motorcycle fatalities are holding steady at 14%, which is equivalent to this time last year.

Thanks to our law enforcement partners for their hard work over the past week. Overtime enforcement included six sobriety checkpoints and 36 roving DUI patrols. Efforts this week bring the Safe Family Holiday enforcement result totals to 125 DUI arrests, 143 seat belt citations, 180 speed citations, and more than 920 other arrests, including 17 drug arrests, and 12 apprehended fugitives. Further, a stolen vehicle was recovered on Friday night as the result of DUI enforcement in Laurel.

As members of law enforcement, you have the ability to make a significant difference! Be vigilant when enforcing Delaware's speed limits and other aggressive driving laws, and sign up to work overtime DUI patrols or sobriety checkpoints. The time you take to write a ticket could slow someone down or get them off the road when they are the most dangerous. This is life-saving work!

Together, we can stay focused and vigilant in an effort to keep crash fatality trends moving in the right direction. Never forget, you're a role model in your community. The public is always watching, so be sure to obey the same laws you enforce. Others will follow your example.